

PRISONERS

OF WAR

10pence
o.n.o.



Paper Of The South Manchester Anarchists

Nº1

INSIDE
N.C.A. DISPUTE
BURTONWOOD
CND
POLICE BILL
and much
much MORE!

HELLO....

....and welcome to the first issue of 'Prisoners of War', the paper of the South Manchester Anarchist Group. The group was set up in January, 1984 by people living and working in the South Manchester area. If you want to contact us with letters, articles and verbal abuse, write to:-

3. MANCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP,
c/o THE AUTONOMY CENTRE,
8-10 Gt. ANCOATS STREET,
MANCHESTER,
M4 5AD.



THE NEW BILL

Not wishing to feel left out, I decided to jump on the recently trendy 'Orwell bandwagon' - Fiction....a Prophecy.....? Hard times, we've all got to cut back, to grin and bear itor have we?

There's a climate of fear in the air; the Russians and the Americans haven't exactly been hitting it off recently, that is until the American election campaign. Americans pledging themselves to peace, promises to love the Russians - even Reagan; I wonder why? Society on the whole is becoming increasingly anti-libertarian. Most at risk are the poor and sick people, for the powers of the police and the government are seldom extended to infringe upon the rights of criminals, the stinking rich, or themselves; the Trade Unions are the first scapegoats for economic stagnation, with the accusation that 'Workers are too greedy, refusing 4% wage rises'. Bollocks - and they know it. Also attacked are those who genuinely question the policies and priorities of the state, such as the peace movement; they are publicly discredited as if their personal appearance - woolly hats, woolly minds eh Michael? - (Defence Minister on the Greenham women) and political beliefs are more important than the desperate issue which they are protesting about.

Day-to-day living in the present economic climate, selfishness has become respectable, profit, regardless of how achieved, is praised, the creation of wealth and law and order have become more important symbols than equality, justice, privacy and freedom. Have you heard any politician base election promises on equality and individual liberty? Our freedom, that we have left, is being eroded more than ever before in recent British history - it's becoming a Police State gradually. This is amply demonstrated in the current parliamentary calendar, which is full of 'Law and Order' measures. Each bill claims to be concerned with such objectives as Crime Prevention and National Security (whatever that is) fair enough. so what?..... but on closer scrutiny.....

THE NEW BILLS:

1. DATA PROTECTION

In spite of its intention to 'safeguard privacy' (!), it excludes entire information systems from the need to register, including all police and national security files. It allows the wholesale transfer of confidential information, for example, from medical and social work files, to the police, even when no crime has been committed.



2. PREVENTION OF TERRORISM

Originally only an emergency measure, it may soon be part of the constitution. This is despite the fact that less than 9% of those arrested under its auspices in Britain have been charged with an offence.

3. TELECOMMUNICATIONS

This bill contains provisions which allow the police to tap telephones with the Home Secretary's warrant. The European Commission for Human Rights has found the law an interference on an individual's private life, and totally unjustifiable.

4. POLICE + CRIMINAL EVIDENCE

This will extend the power to 'Stop and Search', and allows detention in police custody for 96 hours without charge, including the right to hold suspects incommunicado for 36 hours.

The old bill already has more than adequate power to arrest, detain and charge those where there is evidence of a criminal offence. The new powers are given precisely to be used when no evidence exists - and so our basic rights are being eaten away. For example, the right to stop and search, usually carried out in poor communities (Hulme, Moss Side), has little to do with serious crime.

ONLY ONE STOP AND SEARCH IN 12 LEADS TO AN ARREST AND EVEN FEWER TO A CRIMINAL CHARGE.

Most people do not acknowledge all this increase in authoritarianism, because these extended police powers are used mainly in dealings with the poor, the young and racial and political minorities. remember the recent PSI study of the Metropolitan Force last year? The misuse of their power; racist; violent towards arrested suspects; I got the impression that drinking was part of the job.....



3.

THOUGHT POLICE

So there you have it; the 'Thought Police' in George Orwell's 1984 were agents of the 'Party' who checked up on your every move, anticipating every step, ready at any moment to bring you down... but it's just a science fiction story... and the Thought Police are merely a fragment of Orwell's imagination or are they?

THE AUTONOMY CENTRE -

An Obituary.

About a year ago a couple of bored Mancunians decided that the time had come to set up an anarchist centre in Manchester. All praises to the Raven Press Co-operative who rented us a room above their shop on Great Ancoats Street (much appreciated).

We filled the centre with papers, fanzines, books, records, tapes and just about anything produced by the anarchist community. Various organisations used the place as an address. We always made the rent by selling papers etc. at local gigs and events. There was an atmosphere of optimism, to begin with, about our place. So many people helped us. We laid carpets, and decorated. We tried to set up an alternative news service and invited radical groups to use the room as a meeting place, although both failed due mainly to other people's apathy.

Eventually we ran into problems. I think people were just not getting as much out of the centre as they put in. Then with the general discontent ... mutiny! Apathy grew, we ran into money problems and we closed. About a week later FREEDOM (anarchist fortnightly) reproduced a letter announcing our opening. The announcement was six months too late, and we're still replying to those who

write to us through its publication! However, we learnt a lot about organisation. Mere spontaneity is certainly not enough to maintain an ongoing project. Things have to be highly organised, but people learn from their mistakes and we certainly made our fair share. Organisation without authority is something that the state deprives us from birth, and we were no exception to the general rule.

Since the centre closed, I have had chance to put my knowledge (newly acquired) into practice. Successfully. One great lesson I learnt is that no experience is ever wasted.

Finally, a great thanks to all those who helped us create: Peace News, Black Flag, Freedom, Grass, 96 Tapes, and New Birth Tapes, and the numerous other individuals and groups who helped to make it all possible, man!

4. YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT!

"We need meat to survive - vegetarianism is unnatural and impractical!" Heard that one before? Try this one for size: Meat eating is unnatural and impractical."

The human body is structured like that of the frugivorous (plant-eating) ape, and functions much in the same way, suggesting that early people survived on a diet of fruit, nuts, roots and green shoots. Only as the human race spread and faced environmental and climatic challenges did different diets develop. Some tribes, like the eskimos, live on an animal-based diet, but most of the world's population live on cereals and a few other plants. It is the affluent culture of the developed countries and the rich the world over who try to imitate them, who depend on livestock as the central part of their diet. As standards of living rise, the demand for land, water and other basic resources for meat production increases, competing and conflicting with the need for those same resources, of the world's poor. And as ever in this wonderful world we live in, it is the poor who lose out. The annual consumption of grain per head in a typical developing country is 400lbs, mostly eaten directly as an essential source of protein and energy. In the USA, on the other hand, the annual average is about one ton per head, only 150lbs of which is eaten directly, as breakfast cereals, bread, flour etc. The rest is used as animal feed where only about 10% of available energy and protein in the grain is converted to meat-based protein. 90% is wasted, and still we overeat, still we want more.



So what? Disturbing facts, but why should we do anything about it? Think about this:

- 1) When plant foods are imported into Western countries for animal feed, we are denying it to the people of developing countries and contributing to the malnutrition of about 500 million people.
- 2) The prices of essential protein foods are forced up to levels beyond the means of many families in developing countries where the average income is 5% of that of Western countries.
- 3) Abnormal pressure is put on the available land, to produce all the extra crops required to feed the animals: about five times more land is needed to feed an omnivore than a vegetarian.
- 4) The risk of food pollution is increased due to the number of chemicals needed to protect both intensively grown crops and animals reared in the close confines of the factory farm.
- 5) The threat of energy shortage is increased because limited fuel resources are diverted to the production of the energy-intensive fertilizers demanded by modern agricultural methods.

Is it too much, then, to suggest that any steps we can take towards lessening our dependence on animal products can only be positive? The cultivation of vegetable foods for people increases the efficiency with which we use the earth's limited resources. The increasing cost of meat poses the threat of malnutrition even to the poor of the affluent West, as long as we continue to accept the myth that meat is a necessity. More and more people concerned about feeding an increasing world population with the limited resources of a finite planet are recognising the importance of cutting out, either partially or entirely, animal products from our diet. And if we are to survive the dangers we have created with our technology, we must learn to live compassionately, cooperatively and non-violently - and we must carry that to as many parts of our lives as possible, including what we eat.

3 000 animals
slaughtered
every day

And as if that isn't enough, think of the question of the animals themselves - why should they suffer and die because convention and tradition demands it? We are expected to eat meat and two veg, we demand roast chicken, beefburgers, steak pies, we want a nice big joint on Sundays. The average British man or woman eats over their own body weight each year in meat; and for this 3000 animals are slaughtered every day. Animals bred to satisfy human taste buds, reared not as sentient, living creatures but condemned to a lifeless existence as meat machines in cramped, stinking, dimly-lit battery units - weak, anaemic, overfed, imprisoned, only seeing daylight on the brief journey to the stark finality of the slaughterhouse. Meat for us. Profit for the farmers and butchers. Hell for the animals. Respect for life is supposed to be a fundamental principle of humanity, and life is life, whether human or animal. We are able to examine and evaluate our actions and have the capacity for compassion, so is it not hypocrisy to condemn our inhumanity to the human race whilst happily accepting the torture and death of millions of animals for our own greed? Live and let live - WHEN IT SUITS US.

And is meat-eating that good for us anyway? Toxic factors in animal products have always been a human health hazard. Animal fats are a major cause of the growing frequency of heart disease - an ailment very prevalent in Western society. Meat consumption is almost entirely responsible for outbreaks of food poisoning. Chemical additives in animal feeds in intensive meat production can leave traces in the food which may well have harmful long-term effects on people. Those who don't eat animal products seem less prone not only to heart disease but also to cancer of various parts of the digestive system, diverticular disease and obesity. And people who don't eat meat claim to feel more healthy, more active, and to have a generally greater sense of physical well-being than when they ate meat.

So what can we eat? Obviously, it is necessary to have a balanced diet: we need protein to build up and maintain the body; fats and carbohydrates to produce energy; and vitamins and minerals to maintain the metabolic processes of a healthy body. All these are readily available to the vegetarian: in fresh fruit, vegetables and nuts; cereals

(breakfast cereals, rice, bread, flour); pulses (beans, peas, lentils); textured vegetable protein; and also in dairy products. However much food available in supermarkets has lost a lot of its nutritional value in the course of processing and refining: white bread, white flour, white sugar, convenience and instant foods - all devitalized and packed with sometimes harmful artificial colourings, flavourings and preservatives - bland, pretty and useless. However, fruit and

vegetables can be bought fresh, and in all areas there are wholefood shops selling unrefined food. And you can do it yourself - practise mutual aid and set up a wholefood consumer co-op with a group of friends and order your food cheaply in bulk from a wholesale distributor. A group of us do that, and we live cheaply, healthily and humanely on a rich and varied diet.

THE NEXT TIME YOU BUY A PIECE OF MEAT
THINK ABOUT WHAT IT REALLY MEANS.

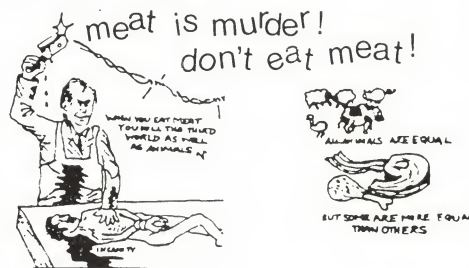
USEFUL ADDRESSES:

Vegetarian Society: Parkdale, Dunham Rd, Altrincham, Cheshire
Vegan Society: 4 Highlands Rd, Leatherhead Surrey
Compassion in World Farming: 20 Lavant St, Petersfield, Hampshire
Northern Animal Liberation League: (local animal rights activists) NALL, c/o Raven Press, 8-10 Great Ancoats St, Manchester
SUMA (for information on setting up a wholefood consumer co-op): 46 The Calls, Leeds LS2 7EY

Also:

War on Want (for Third World info): Oxford Rd, Manchester
On The Eighth Day Co-op - vegetarian cafe and wholefood shop -: Oxford Rd, M/cr Green Door Bakery (Co-op), Longsight
Sunflower wholefoods, Chorlton, M/cr Garuder Wholefoods, Withington, M/cr

For simple, varied and tasty vegan recipes: 'Healthy Eating for the New Age' by Joyce D'Silvia.



BURTONWOOD 1983

In case you didn't know, R.A.F. Burtonwood (near Warrington) is the biggest U.S. military storehouse in Europe, and is rumoured to store nuclear warheads.

During 1981 it became one of the main focus points for the peace movement in the North West and two peace camps existed for different periods of time.

During late 1983, with the rising concern over the installation of first strike Cruise missiles in Britain, it again became a focus for the attention of local peace groups.

What follows are brief accounts of the last two demonstrations/actions to have taken place at Burtonwood.

November 8th-9th, 1983.

6.

The background to this demonstration is the decision by the Greenham Common 'wimmin' to take the U.S. government to court over the installation of Cruise in the hope that their deployment could be halted while the hearings took place.

A demonstration and peace camp was organised by the Greenham Common Women's Support group and Greater Manchester C.N.D. to support the legal action in the States. 101 other U.S. military installations throughout Great Britain also attracted similar demonstrations.

During the evening of the 8th November, a peace camp was held by members of the various peace groups involved. Many of those present felt that some form of Direct Action against the base should take place, so part of the perimeter fence was cut during the night.

However, the morning of the 9th heralded the arrival of groups of peace movement officials who thwarted the proposed action, brandishing hundreds of 'official' leaflets. The campers unhappily complied.

Later, other groups of activists from the North West arrived in cars and minibuses, including myself. Shocked at the apparent stagnation, a group of us attempted to organise

a blockade, only to be informed of what I have already told you. As usual, my Great Expectations were dashed by the usual apathy apparent at C.N.D.-organised events.

The rest of the day I spent getting thoroughly cold. Speeches by the Greenham Women Support Group, dances and cries of: "Oh, I feel so emotional!" did little to impress me.

I apologise to those who spent time and energy organising the event, but I think my disillusionment with the day is justified.

If we are to challenge the warfare state, this, in my opinion, is not the way to do it.

December 6th-7th, 1983.

"Heard the news - there's gonna be an action at Burtonwood on Wednesday". Great!

Tuesday. Packed my stomach with food and off I went spending my wages on the train to Warrington, and then to Sankey station. Then round the perimeter fence for a couple of miles. I could just about see the camp fires through the fog. I sat down with the people who had arrived minutes ago from the university at Manchester. Hot cups of coffee and warm conversation - such a change from the factory with no life, no windows, and cameras on the walls. Starting to live again! More arrivals, people from Liverpool, all over the place.

Later we talk about cutting the fences. I go with another to a place I remember on the opposite side of the base and we find a road under construction. We follow the road till it runs parallel to the perimeter lights. Images of the Berlin wall. We cross the mound of earth that separates our road and the perimeter fence. It's so foggy, so cold. Minus 5 - 9 degrees of frost. We cross the crunchy marshland separating the black earth mound and the fence. I can feel my heart-beat speeding up in my temples. We cut the fence. We smile to each other and walk back to the road, then

back to the camp, avoiding the police who patrol like remote control toys.

But WE aren't being played with!

Back at the camp, people are drifting off to their tents. I stay outside next to the fire. We toast bread and wait for 5.00am. Other parties arrive back with stories to tell. We've cut the fences in three places, twice on the near side.

I keep moving, I feel drowsy, thinking about hypothermia. It's 5.00am. People start to come out of the tents; no-one could get to sleep it was too cold. Someone shouts my name. They've got a landrover to take me to the motorway services where we're meeting new arrivals from Manchester and Liverpool. We take a back road. Still too foggy but we can see the police follow us. Shit! We stop, they turn round; we carry on. Arrive.

I walk over to the services, go to the toilet, roll a fag amongst lorry drivers eating plastic food. A tap on the shoulder - they've arrived. I walk with two others, get on the Manchester coach, say hello to friends, then onto the Liverpool coach, meet new faces, then we set off. I welcome the warmth of the coach. We drive 3 or 4 miles and I give directions. Then we're off and I retrace the steps I took only hours earlier. Through the fence! It's getting light. We have a picnic next to a fuel store. We talk. Then we decide to try and make the main gate. What an idea!

We run, walk, dive, avoiding the patrol cars, run again, and after about half an hour the fog lifts.

We run faster, and we can see the other perimeter, another oil dump, then a police car. They see us. The approach and one of the Liverpool people present him with a gift. We're not going to be arrested. No surprise - they're trying to dampen the event. We walk up to the main gate; we hold hands. I feel elated. Everyone outside cheers, claps and we're out. The police form a metal barrier (with gaps for vehicles) behind us. I meet more friends. There are cameras, Granada T.V. people. A military van approaches and immediately we dive in front of it and interlink. The police pull

us off, one by one. Someone's arrested. We cheer. We're HERE. The vehicle gets through. More trucks, more blockades, more arrests. Then a friend tells me someone's been recognised from the N.G.A. dispute and has broken his terms of bail. He's arrested. The others who were there hide in the peace camp.

It's 9.00am and I've been dragged across the road by the police so many times that the buttons on my coat have all come off! I can feel pain in my shoulder, so I decide to stop. I walk over to the next gate with some friends from Manchester where another blockade is taking place. I talk to some people from Lancaster.

Later the blockades become diffused and at 11.00am coaches begin to arrive. I walk to the nearby village - "Chips and peas for 8 please"

I'm so tired. We arrive back at the camp. I meet two friends from Manchester who offer to take me back. We go for a drink in Warrington. It's afternoon. Getting more tired and the symptoms of 'flu are showing.

G.

Action refreshes the parts that silly walks cannot reach.



THE PRICE OF POWER.

C.N.D-DEFENDING THE STATE?

War is the means by which states protect their interests and thereby retain superiority over other states, but Anarchists have always opposed the state system including militarism. This includes opposition to the production, installation and use of nuclear weapons. However, opposition to the Warfare State is only part of the struggle to end all exploitation and repression.

In the single issue campaign against nuclear weapons, CND is the main opposition group in Britain, but are they managing the campaign correctly? I believe the answer is NO.

The State.....

CND, as the name suggests, oppose nuclear weapons only, and therefore do not campaign against other forms of militarism. Do such people think that after nuclear weapons are gone everything will be fine? It seems that, as far as some memoers are concerned, this is the case, and Britain will be defended by conventional weapons. This approach accepts the role of the state and militarism.

This acceptance of the state by CND is confirmed by the way it attempts to use the Labour Party to achieve disarmament, ie they try to persuade the state to remove its nuclear weapons. But it was the state that was responsible for installing them in the first place; will it be responsible for removing them? It is obvious that it won't. Even so, suppose the next government did disarm, what would prevent the following one from re-arming? We must therefore struggle to remove those who control nuclear weapons armies and all the other state trappings and work to create the conditions where such things are unnecessary.

The role of the Labour Party in the disarmament movement has already been demonstrated to be useless. In 1962, the Party Conference adopted a unilateralist policy but the Wilson government decided in 1964 to retain US bases and independant nuclear weapons. In addition to this, past Labour governments decided that Britain should build its own nuclear weapons, and in 1979 they supp-

orted NATO's policy of siting Cruise and Pershing in Western Europe.

CND also seeks the support of Trade Union leaders, and urges the unions to affiliate, but what purpose does this achieve? They ignore the ordinary members of such unions, who in any case might not want to join CND. And when was the last time you saw a union bureaucrat sitting in a blockade?

CND should stop wasting time, effort and resources by enlisting the support of those that don't care. It should be obvious that the people in power will never lift a finger against their own interests and so we must take matters into our own hands and increase the level of direct action going on at the moment.



EVERY TIME WE LEAVE
OUR PROBLEMS UP TO
THE AUTHORITIES THEY
JUST GET WORSE, -
DONT GIVE IN TO THE
AUTHORITIES, MAKE THEM
GIVE IN TO YOU.

Direct Action.

Although CND supports direct action at present, this has not always been the case. For more than twenty years, CND has organised marches, vigils, petitions etc, but little has been achieved through this beyond demonstrating the level of support. There are other more effective methods of campaigning such as blockades, peace camps, occupations etc. Between 1957 and 1968, direct action and illegal demonstrations organised by the Direct Action Committee and the Committee of 100, were met with disapproval and opposition by the CND leadership.

Even to this day, national CND has



Jane/Vocals
Sean/Vic
Warty/Bass
Stocks/Drums

Anarka and Poppy are a four piece band from the town of Preston in Lancashire. All value our ideas on freedom and if you really want the label you'd probably call us an 'anarchist' band and so we are.

In lots of our Johns animal rights are sectioned not because it's hip but because it is a very serious subject and needs handling + focusing on wherever and whenever possible, there are us as vegetarians and one of us is veg, anyway I just point out that Sean as the veggie and I would sit slag people off for not being - Sean we did me about a year to get to the state where I can totally free myself from all animal products. Two of us (Sean and Jane) were recently arrested when we directly helped cause £5,000 of damage to the duke of Westminsters grouse shooting estate in Lancaster (setting two birds with one stone! etc) how we arrested three others are awaiting trial on January 27th, we are not sorry for what we did, it needed to be done in the name of 'humanity' not 'sport'.

Anyways back to the band, we've done eight gigs up to date playing with various bands such as Subhumans, Faction, Disorder (very!), Fall out, Andy T and others as well as doing lots of gigs with tape label mates Wartyos (see new birth tapes) and we went down very well at all of them so we decided to get to the studios and release a cassette which we had done, it is called 'all that is shattered' and is available from 3 for £1.25 + S.A. It includes two book/zine things, lyrics and assorted hand outs from us and it seems to be getting a very good reaction and selling well!

What we hope to achieve if nothing else is to make people more aware of their environment and how corrupt it is and how it is run on the basis of capitalism which exploits them and in turn leaves them isolated and corrupt. We are all against the state in one way or another in the way we are imprisoned by the state for speaking what we feel, organised things dealing out organised violence against the people I think anyone with any consideration for the natural freedom of life will see the state denies all except the right to breathe. Anarka and Poppy started off as just Sean and Jane but we set kick who helped out in a peace shop we used to have in Preston, when that fell through (as these things usually do because of money) three of us were left together after an apathy came out in a peace shop we used to have in Preston, when that fell - we had always wanted so, now here we are Gary, who now plays bass has just joined and the sound is now very advanced due to his help, so another demo will be on the way in a few months the titled 'THE PRISONERS OF PAIN AND POWER IN EVERY STATE' (P.O.P.P.I.E.S.) so keep yer eyes open! Anyway I hope that's explained us well enough, our address is on the bottom of this page if you want to get in touch. Lots of love Anarka et Poppy.

NEW BIRTH TAPES

This is Anarka and Poppy's tape label it was formed around October 83 with its first release 'all that is shattered' by Anarka and Poppy, it's second release was a tape by Manchester band 'Know the drill' but was soon to be deleted as they kicked Gary out for being 'political' we replaced it with a tape by Vigan band Wartyos, a very good seven track demo. We are working on a compilation called 'Angry babies' which will be made up of others feature the alternative, Andy T, Anarka and Poppy Youth in Asia. The who and lots of others, that will be released around April 84. The label is open to anyone who wants to use it, especially bands, individuals who have a valid message to put across, so get sending it, especially bands, individuals who have a valid message to put across, so get sending it.

ANARKA AND POPPY, ALL THAT IS SHATTERED, TAPES + BOOKLETS, ENGILL, CO
WARTYOS, INFORMATION IS THE SYSTEM, INDOCINATION IS DEATH, DEMO TAPE WITH LYRICS
AND HANDOUTS 270/41.00
Please include a stamped addressed envelope with all your orders cos it saves me going to the post office every day!
'into the' 'advertis' 'creambook' by Sean of A.P.I.U.
COMMUNICATION COMMUNICATION COMMUNICATION COMMUNICATION COMMUNICATION
Anarka and Poppy c/o Stocko, II nte turnpike, Ribwood, Preston, Lancashire, PR2 3NT
New Birth tapes c/o Sean, 5 Fir Trees avenue, Lostock hall, Preston, Lancs, PR5 5SH

never organised direct action, only marches and symbolic actions such as vigils, while giving grudging support to activities organised by affinity groups such as the peace camps and local groups. (Affinity group' is an Anarchist concept, involving groups of people in local areas holding meetings and planning actions, while working with other such groups and supporting larger organisations.) This approach is encouraged by Anarchists as it is the libertarian idea of people organising themselves without hierarchical structures in practice. It took more than a year for CND to support such an approach taken by the people at Greenham Common, Upper Heyford and other peace camps. Was this because the leadership objected to the initiative being taken out of their own hands?

Mass direct action has been shown to gain results as well as publicity, when effective numbers of people are involved. For example, during the coal miners strike in 1972, the government thought it could survive by using stocks from surplus coal depots, but when these were blockaded by numbers exceeding 5000, they were forced to back down and shut the

8.

depots. Thus the campaign must be geared towards involving larger numbers in such actions.

To do this CND should first of all stop crawling to the Labour Party and union bureaucrats, achieving nothing whatsoever, but should concentrate on reaching more ordinary people, giving full support to direct actions organised by affinity groups and encouraging their membership to take part. Just think what might have been achieved if the 400,000 people who were in London last October 22nd were at Greenham Common, say, instead....

A much broader campaign is also required, involving opposition to all forms of militarism and raising the public's awareness of the role of nuclear weapons and militarism in the state's control of our lives.

Just as an employer uses the threat of competition to thwart dissent, the state uses the threat of war.

That's why so many states want nuclear weapons - not for deterrence - but to maintain a permanent state of cold war, a permanent state of obedience.

THE SHAPE⁹ OF THINGS TO COME - THE N.G.A DISPUTE.

another Gdansk?

adivor vodka isn't the only thing Harrington has in common with the Eastern bloc. At 4a.m. on Wednesday 1st December the industrial estate where the scab newspaper the Stockport Messenger was being produced resembled the shipyards of Gdansk last year. Hundreds of riot police battling with groups of determined workers, bonfires being lit to block the roads, barricades of oil drums going up, workers scavenging for missiles to hurl at the police, a middle aged docker directing a in bringing down telephone poles to block the road. These were scenes we'd all seen on t.v. occurring in Ireland, Poland - all over Europe. And now it was here, the armed might of the State going all out to smash the organized workers movement and the workers fighting back.

I arrived there at 10p.m. on the Tuesday night - by then there were about 2000 pickets and already 1000 police defending the scab plant. From then onwards throughout the night and early morning large numbers of pickets from all over the country kept arriving, despite police attempts to block approach roads. By the end there were over 4500 pickets. Workers fought to get through the police lines which broke on three occasions but police reinforcements were limitless. By early morning the police numbering now 1500 were hard pressed and lashing out ruthlessly. No arrests were made, pickets were dragged through, beaten and kicked, then thrown out on a quieter part of the line.

riot police

The deadline for the scab paper was 5.30a.m. By 3.30 a.m. we were winning, each police push ended in them going back not forward. The spirit of the workers was high, the entrance was blocked and no lorries could get out. But the number of wounded was growing, comrades with broken arms, some wandering through the crowd with blood streaming down their face. Spontaneously groups formed to help with first aid. Then at 3.45 a.m. they sent in the riot police - the so-called Tactical Reserve Group - 400 of them in full riot gear battering a way through us. They couldn't be held back. Again, few arrests just beatings as they chased us back. They secured one road and it was along this they drove the lorries loaded with the scab paper. All we could do was block the other road and try to push the police back and trap the lorries. By now the bonfires were lit and the first barricades going up. All this happening "spontaneously, no "vanguard" showing the way but the workers themselves. The riot police launched a massive baton charge to clear us out, they chased us up the approach road only to be driven back and hemmed in.

But we had lost, the scab paper was out along with the scabs who printed it. Its time now to draw the lessons and learn: for a start the pigs thinly defended transport was not attacked although we could have wised it out, the roads should have been blocked with materials much sooner, more care should have been on hand for wounded comrades. But in learning these lessons we can look to our comrades experiences on the continent, and what better example than that of the CNT.

What took place that night was not just another picket or a scrap with the police. This whole dispute and the buildup to it

has shown that Thatcher and the State are out to smash and eliminate all opposition. Organised labour (yes, even the reformist wimpy N.G.A.!) is top of the list. The year 1984 is here and Thatcher and her pals are out to make it everything well predicted. The State and Tories are on the offensive - but they will find the workers fighting back!



CULTURAL
BIT-

A POME



THE RICH DIE RICHER
THE POOR DIE POOR
THEY DRINK CHAMPAGNE AS
WE DIE IN THEIR WARS.

SO WHY SHOULD YOU BE AN
ANARCHIST?

MASS MEDIA CONTROL
POLICE, THE LAW
RULING CLASS PROFIT
IS WHAT THEY'RE USED FOR.

ANTI-SOCIAL WORK

Social workers are paid by the state to help people who for one reason or another can't cope..... aren't they?

Well, yes and no....

It is undeniable that social workers do help people, both through direct grants and by providing access to state-run welfare services. BUT THEY DON'T ONLY HELP; USING VARIOUS TECHNIQUES TO BULLY THEIR CLIENTS, THEY ALSO CONTROL.

Take the case of a single parent who for one reason or another finds it impossible to care for his/her child. The possible reasons for this are numerous; bad or non-existent housing; illness; or the psychological effects of isolation may be among them. In such a case, social services may, with the consent of the parent, take over custody of the child until such a time as the situation improves. This voluntary care, as it is known, though not an ideal situation, is often the only alternative to an intolerable home situation.

However, social services are also able to apply, through the courts, for a COMPULSORY CARE ORDER - if they feel the child is not receiving adequate care at home. The fact that these applications

are thrown out of court - most magistrates have a suitable respect for the nuclear family - does not prevent social services from using the Compulsory Care Order as a threat.

Another technique is to literally 'gang up' on the client. A woman of my acquaintance, whose child was in voluntary care, was forced to attend meetings where as many as eight representatives of the authorities would "discuss" her child's welfare with her.

Voluntary care can also lead to the total removal, in gradual stages, of a child from its parents' custody. It is argued, quite rightly, that institutional care is no substitute for a family environment, and after a child has been placed in care for a period of time, she/he is placed in a foster home. This is often a prelude to adoption. The parents, already demoralised, are gradually dislodged from visiting, and the foster parents begin to replace them in the child's life.

Bearing in mind that the people who use social services are the weakest and most vulnerable in our society, it is easy to see how effective such techniques of control can be.



LIVE AND LET DIE

The effects of the arms trade

on Britain

and the Third World

When people in Britain think about the arms trade, it is usually in terms of the balance of payments and the jobs which arms sales are said to provide. People don't consider where the arms go, or the uses to which they might be put. Lets have a look

In 1979 world military expenditure was £480 000 million - this is £50 for every man, woman and child on this planet.

The number of countries producing their own weapons is also increasing rapidly. Today 56 countries produce major weapons e.g. aircraft, missiles, ships etc, and 24 of them are in the Third World. Some of them - Israel, S. Africa, Brazil, Argentina and India - already compete in the arms export market.

The government and the arms salesmen never mention that nearly three-quarters of the arms exported by Britain and the other rich industrialised nations go to the Third World - where many of the people are desperately poor.

NATO and the Warsaw Pact together supply 94% of weapons to the 3rd world.

the plight of the 'third world'

Through government overseas aid projects run by Third World development agencies, people in Britain are directly involved in helping to change the situation in the Third World - by helping people in poor countries to develop the educational, medical, agricultural and transport facilities which they need. But these programmes are all under mined by the British government's arms sales policies. Third World governments argue that they need modern armaments. But this need is strongly encouraged by the arms sellers themselves. BRITAIN, ONE OF THE LARGEST ARMS EXPORTERS IN THE WORLD, has a Defence Sales Organisation within the Ministry of Defence. Its 400 EMPLOYEES ONLY AIM IS TO SELL MORE BRITISH WEAPONS. The arms trade doesn't only prevent the poor of the world from obtaining their fair share of global resources. It is also a major factor in fostering military rivalries and regional arms races, and in maintaining dictatorships. Where would the El Salvador leadership be without US backed arms ?

can anything be done ?

The current British policy to increase defence spending (while cutting most other areas of government expenditure), and to encourage the arms export trade (Mrs. Thatcher's speech, 4.9.80) will only serve to divert more resources into the burden and waste of the arms race.

The Third World countries (the exporters) want these weapons to strengthen their national security or to enhance their prestige. Altogether their desire to increase arms expenditure is at the expense of peaceful development and bears little relationship to their security needs.

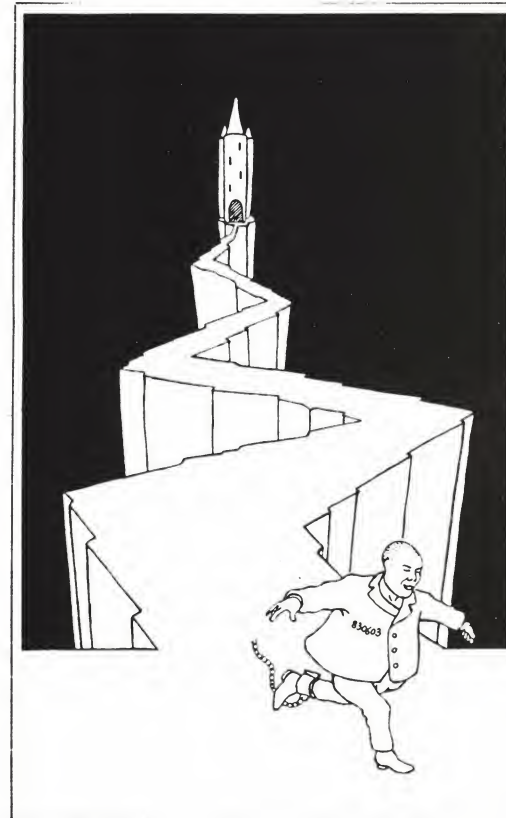
Sometimes embargoes are imposed on sales to a particular country or region - this has happened recently with S. Africa for example. Limitations of this type have to be far more widely applied. As a first step, no arms should be sold to regimes which clearly violate the basic human rights of their citizens. Stop the US 'giving' arms to Colombia, El Salvador etc ? Who's going to stop an arms exporter selling the odd atom bomb to the likes of Gaddafi or the Iranians ?

If Britain suddenly stopped selling arms, competitors might well move in to fill the gap. But Britain won't stop selling arms overnight. During the tapering off process, Britain would be in an excellent position to use all its political muscle in the United Nations and elsewhere to bring about international arms trade limitations - to everyone's advantage. Any limitations would also have to be linked to disarmament negotiations involving the major powers, so that Third World countries don't see themselves being deprived of arms which the arms producers keep stockpiling for themselves. Also any agreement on arms limitation would have to cover not just the sale of weapons, but also the provision of the high technology needed to produce them.

Slowing down and eventually ending Britain's involvement in the arms trade NEED NOT injure this country's balance of payments. On the contrary an imaginative programme of alternative production could lead to more employment and increased exports of goods which are actually needed - rather than weapons which at best use up valuable resources and at worst KILL HUMAN BEINGS.

Workers at Lucas Aerospace, Vickers, and other arms companies have already put forward ideas for alternative products. Several such as novel systems of transport, could be widely developed in the Third World. There are dozens of possibilities - all potentially profitable, socially useful, and life-enhancing. But the managements of the arms companies refuse to consider them. They say it's more profitable to carry on making military equipment. This is simply not true. Large quantities of armaments are sold at a loss, for political reasons. Nor does increased production safeguard jobs; the industry is increasingly capital-intensive, with workers being replaced by machines. Thus unemployment will rise even if levels of production are maintained. Jobs in military industries are also very insecure, dependant on the constantly changing political and military situation in the purchasing countries.

For a more detailed analysis, send for "Bombs For Breakfast" (90p) to COPAT publications, c/o 5 Caledonian Rd., London, N1 9DX.



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THANKS !

Thanks to:
Ted, Elaine and Angela
For the invaluable
Help.

Thanks to the Great
British Public for
Inspiration (!)

